

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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P 110851Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7390
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 02946

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, TW, US, USSR
SUBJECT: NO "UNHOLY" TAIWAN-USSR ALLIANCE

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, WHICH MOFA POINTEDLY
REMINDED US YESTERDAY IS "GENERALLY AUTHORITATIVE
IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS" PUBLISHED LETTER DATED MAY 8 FROM
"A READER" WARNING THAT THE "MORE THE U.S. INSULTS,
ISOLATES ITSELF FROM AND PRESSURES THE ROC, THE
BETTER WILL APPEAR ANY RUSSIAN OFFERS OF MILITARY AID
AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN EXCHANGE FOR SOVIET AIR
AND NAVAL BASE RIGHTS IN TAIWAN AND PENGHU (THE
PESCADORES)."

2. ON MAY 11 CHINA NEWS FOLLOWED UP WITH EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "NO UNHOLY ALLIANCE" WHICH BEGINS "EVERY
ONCE IN A WHILE, SOMEONE QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY SUGGESTS
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THAT IF THE UNITED STATES SELLS US OUT, WE CAN ALWAYS
JUMP INTO BED WITH THE SOVIET UNION." BUT, THE
EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE TRUE.
WE CAN'T. MORALLY IT WOULD BE WRONG. REALISTICALLY
IT WOULD BE LEAPING FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE."
THE EDITORIAL THEN DETAILS THE SPECIFIC ARGUMENTS
AGAINST ALLIANCE WITH THE USSR: IT WOULD BE THE

"QUICKEST WAY TO BRING HOT WAR TO OUR SHORES"; HOW WOULD U.S., JAPAN AND PRC REACT?; IT WOULD NOT INDUCE THE U.S. TO TREAT TAIWAN MORE HONORABLY - ON CONTRARY "IF THE U.S. IS OPPORTUNISTIC, WE ARE GOING TO BE DOUBLECROSSED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AND THERE IS NO POINT IN COMPROMISING OURSELVES WITH THE SOVIET UNION."

3. PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IS PARAGRAPH CONTAINING CLEARER STATEMENT WE HAVE YET SEEN ON HOW GROG AT THIS POINT AT LEAST BELIEVES IT WOULD RESPOND TO NORMALIZATION: "IF THE U.S. DEPARTS FROM THE WAYS OF INTERNATIONAL RECTITUDE, THAT CANNOT BE HELPED. WE SHALL DO OUR BEST TO PERSUADE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NOT TO ALLOW THIS. IF WE FAIL, WE SHALL HAVE NOTHING OF WHICH TO BE ASHAMED. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO STAND ON WHAT WE BELIEVE."

4. COMMENT: WE SEE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT THIS EDITORIAL WAS INSPIRED BY, IF NOT WRITTEN IN, MOFA. IT DOES NOT SHAKE OUR CONFIDENCE THAT ONCE NORMALIZATION SEEMS IMMINENT AS WELL AS INEVITABLE, GROG WILL BE PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN MAKING POST-NORMALIZATION ARRANGEMENTS WORK. IN MEANTIME, GROG WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ABOUT THE "STUDIED (U.S.) CAMPAIGN TO Demean US" SO THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION "WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SELL US DOWN THE RIVER TO COMMUNISM". BUT VIEWS QUOTED PARA 3 (WHICH WE HAVE ALSO BEEN GETTING IN WORDS OR SUBSTANCE IN CONVERSATIONS) ALSO CONFIRM OUR IMPRESSION THAT WHILE THE GROG LIKES TO CRY WOLF FROM TIME TO TIME, IT IS NOT GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO SUCH NIGHTMARE OPTIONS AS ALLIANCE WITH USSR OR INDEPENDENCE. INSTEAD LIKELY GROG POSITION WILL BE THAT THE U.S. IS WRONG AND SOMEDAY IT WILL REALIZE THIS FACT. BUT NOTHING THE U.S. CAN DO OR SAY CHANGES ANYTHING. WE (THE ROC) ARE AND WILL REMAIN THE SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CHINA. INDEPENDENCE OPTION IS, OF COURSE, NOT COMPLETELY WITHIN GROG'S CONTROL. WE ARE CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT INDEPENDENTS WOULD NEITHER FEEL THREATENED BY NOR COMPELLED TO REACT TO A STAND PAT STATEMENT BY GROG, AT LEAST FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. SULLIVAN

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